MARVEL COMICS

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# Fantastic Four

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## INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

PROLOGUE 4 HEROES REBORN

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NEW YORK CITY. LAST NIGHT.

BRREEP! BRREEP! BRREE--

ANSWER PHONE.

KLICK

HELLO? BEN?!?

NO, ALICIA. IT'S CASS.

WHAT? HAS HE LEFT ALREADY? I MEAN IT'S ONLY TEN --

ACTUALLY... HE'S RUNNING A LITTLE LATE.

YOU MEAN HE HASN'T EVEN SHOWN UP YET?! HE'S THREE HOURS LATE? DID HE AT LEAST CALL YOU?

NO... BUT I'M SURE BEN HAS A GOOD REASON --

LIKE HE'S OFF SAVING THE WORLD? Uh-huh. YOU KNOW, HE'S PROBABLY OUT SOMEWHERE GETTING MOBBED BY HIS ADORING GROUPIES.

I WARNED YOU SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN. LISTEN, DO YOU WANT ME TO COME OVER?

NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M A BIG GIRL, CASS. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

BESIDES, I'VE GOT OTTO HERE TO KEEP ME COMPANY.

WELL... OKAY. BUT GIVE ME A CALL LATER IF YOU JUST WANT TO TALK.

THANKS, I WILL. GOODNIGHT, CASS.

TALK TO YOU LATER, ALICIA.

KLICK

END CALL.

KLICK

WHERE ARE YOU, BEN?

AM I JUST FOOLING MYSELF HERE OR...

"...ARE YOU *REALLY* OFF SOMEWHERE SAVING THE WORLD?"

LATVERIA.

NOW.

AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, BEN GRIMM AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR PRESENTLY FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED WITHIN THE WALLS OF CASTLE DOOM...

...BATTLING AN ALIEN MENACE KNOWN AS THE SUPER SKRULL -- WITH THE FUTURE OF ALL MANKIND HANGING IN THE BALANCE!

AT LAST! I NOW POSSESS THE POWER COSMIC!

THE PRIMAL ENERGY OF THE VERY *UNIVERSE* COURSES THROUGH MY BODY.

NOW I HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONQUER THE ENTIRE *PLANET!*

AND WITH MY NEW-FOUND POWER, I NO LONGER NEED TO RESORT TO DOPPELGANGER *DISGUISES!*

SO *THAT'S* WHY YOU AND THE TORCH WERE READY TO CLEAN MY CLOCK.

THAT SKRULL MUST'VE USED MY *S.H.I.E.L.D.* SECURITY CLEARANCE TO *INFILTRATE* PROJECT *EXCELSIOR*.

AND THEN *E.T.* AND HIS GOONS HIJACKED THE *SHIP* SO THEY COULD GO AND ATTACK THE STELLAR ANOMALY.

BUT IT *WASN'T* JUST AN ANOMALY! IT WAS SOME KIND OF *SILVER HUMANOID!*

AND SOMEHOW, HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE HIS *FALL* TO EARTH, CRASHING INTO THE JUNGLES OF *WAKANDA* -- WHERE HE WAS THEN SPIRITED AWAY BY *DOOM'S* MEN AND BROUGHT *HERE*.

Stan Lee Presents

# RETRIBUTION

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OF COURSE/ DOOM'S GOAL MUST HAVE BEEN TO *EXTRACT* THE ALIEN ENTITY'S *LIFE FORCE*, TO TRY AND *REPLICATE* THE CONDITIONS THAT CREATED THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

THAT IS, UNTIL *BEN* AND *JOHNNY* SHOWED UP.

*DESPITE* THE RECENT TURN OF EVENTS, I AM *STILL* IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, Ms. STORM. IN FACT, *YOUR* CONTINUED SURVIVAL IS *DEPENDENT* UPON ME.

AND WHY SHOULD WE *BELIEVE* YOU, VICTOR?

YOU HAVE NO *CHOICE*, RICHARDS. WITH ITS NEWLY GAINED POWER, THIS *"SUPER SKRULL"* SEEKS --

VICTOR! WATCH OUT!

ALL I SEEK AT THIS MOMENT IS YOUR DEATH, VON DOOM!

YOU HAVE *OUTLIVED* YOUR USEFULNESS, ARROGANT PAWN.

BUT FIRST, I SHALL GIVE YOU A *TASTE* OF THE PRIZE YOU SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT TO POSSESS!

SHRAKOW

WOTTA REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT *THIS* IS!

THERE'S A PART O' ME THAT WANTS TA ROOT FER THE SKRULL TO SOCK IT TO THAT TIN-PLATED *TYRANT*...

...BUT THAT'D MEAN WE'D HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE BIG GREEN TOAD BY *OURSELVES!*

AARGH!

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE MUST CHOOSE THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS/

KRAAK

FZZAAM

DOCTOR DOOM NEEDS NO ONE'S HELP!

ENJOY YOUR BRIEF MOMENT OF GLORY WHILE YOU *CAN*, SKRULL! THE POWER COSMIC THAT YOU POSSESS BELONGS TO *ME* -- AND I WILL NOT *REST* UNTIL IT IS MINE.

IT WAS *MY* TRANSFERENCE DEVICE THAT *GAVE* YOU YOUR POWER -- AND CAN JUST AS EASILY *TAKE* IT *AWAY!*

INSIGNIFICANT HUMAN!

YOU HAVE *NO* COMPREHENSION OF THE SHEER *MAGNITUDE* OF THE POWER COSMIC!

DOCTOR RICHARDS! IF THE *SOURCE* OF THE SKRULL'S SUPER POWER IS THAT *OTHER* ALIEN ENTITY'S *LIFE FORCE*...

...THEN WE'VE ALL GOT TO WORK *TOGETHER* WITH DOOM TO FIND A WAY TO TRANSFER THAT ENERGY *BACK* TO THE HOST!

ZASH

YOU AND YOUR MECHANICAL DEVICE WILL BE *DESTROYED* BEFORE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO *ANYTHING!*

YOU TALK OF WIELDING ABSOLUTE POWER, DOOM!

ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE TRUE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS!

SH -- SHIELDS -- OVER-LOADING --

SHRRACK

KKRRGH!

NOW TO DEAL WITH THE REST OF YOU.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND --/

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

A SIMPLE EMOTION. ONE THAT EVEN YOU HUMANS ARE CAPABLE OF GRASPING.

THIS IS ABOUT REVENGE!

RETRIBUTION AGAINST THE ONE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE STARS AS THE SILVER SURFER!

HE IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF EVERY SKRULL --

-- FOR HE IS THE HARBINGER OF DEATH TO THE ENTIRE LIVING UNIVERSE!

THE ACCURSED HERALD --

"... OF GALACTUS!

"HE WHO IS THE *DESTROYER OF WORLDS!*

"THE GODLIKE BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *DEATH* AND *DESTRUCTION* OF THE SKRULL *THRONEWORLD.*

"WE, THE FEW SURVIVING SONS OF SKRULL, ARE SWORN TO *AVENGE* OUR FALLEN PEOPLE. TO THAT END, WE HAVE *TRACKED* GALACTUS AND HIS HERALD ON THEIR JOURNEYS THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.

"*FOOLS!* DO YOU REALLY THINK THE COMING OF THE SURFER TO YOUR WORLD WAS SIMPLY AN *ACCIDENT?* THE FOUL SEEDS OF GALACTUS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN *ROOT* HERE.

"WE BIDED OUR TIME HERE AND WAITED. WE KNEW IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE HE RETURNED TO REAP THE *HARVEST.*

"AND NOW, OUR PLAN TO *CAPTURE* THE HERALD AND *ROB* HIM OF HIS POWER COSMIC HAS *SUCCEEDED.*

"AT LAST, WE POSSESS THE POWER TO STAGE OUR *FINAL RECKONING* WITH GALACTUS HIMSELF!"

KL'RT/ THIS IS J'FAR/

OUR SENSORS HAVE DETECTED UNIDENTIFIED *AIRCRAFT* TRESPASSING INTO LATVERIAN AIR SPACE -- CLOSING IN ON OUR LOCATION/

INITIAL SCANS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE *SHIELD* ATTACK-CRAFT/

VEEP VEEP VEEP

"BEN/ THAT'S GOT TO BE THE *EXTRACTION* TEAM/"

"WHATCHA *TALKIN'* ABOUT, WYATT? IS THIS SOMETHIN' *ELSE* YA FORGOT TO TELL US ABOUT?!"

"IT WAS A CONTINGENCY PLAN, JUST IN CASE SOMETHING WENT WRONG. Uh, YEAH...IT *DID* SLIP MY MIND.

"GUESS OLD HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK."

ALL YOU'VE DONE IS CONSIGN THOSE MEN TO THEIR *DEATHS!*

I CAN INSTANTANEOUSLY CREATE AN IMPENETRABLE *SHIELD* AROUND THE ENTIRE CASTLE --

KABOOM

KABOOM

KA

"... AND *DESTROY* THESE WOULD-BE RESCUERS BEFORE THEY CAN FIRE A *SINGLE SHOT!*"

YA STINKIN' GREEN-SKINNED *MURDERER!*

IS THIS WHAT IT MEANS TA BE A SKRULL WARRIOR? *HIDIN'* BEHIND SOME STINKIN' IMPENETRABLE FORCE-FIELD INSTEAD O' *FACIN'* YER ENEMY?

WELL, LET'S SEE HOW WELL YA HOLD UP AGAINST SOMEONE *UP CLOSE* AND *PERSONAL!*

WHAM

ARRGH!

FREAK OF NATURE! YOU FORGET THAT WE BOTH HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE HERALD'S COSMIC ENERGY!

HOWEVER. WITH MY OWN *IMITATIVE* ABILITIES NOW ENHANCED, I CAN EASILY REPLICATE YOUR VERY *POWERS!*

BUT TO MUCH GREATER EFFECT!

KRAKKOOM

ULUWUGH!

THE *HUMAN TORCH* WON'T BE SUCH AN EASY TARGET, SKRULL!

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CAN'T *REACH* ME, BUT I CAN BLAST *YOU* TO A CRISP!

WOOSH

INSOLENT PUP! DO YOU YET NOT UNDER-STAND?!

WHAM

I CAN ATTUNE MYSELF TO ALL YOUR DIFFERENT POWERS AND THEN USE THEM IN ANY COMBINATION AGAINST YOU!

AAARRGH!

THIS ISN'T *WORKING*. ANY DIRECT CONFRON - TATION WITH THE CREATURE IS *FUTILE!*

I'M AFRAID AGENT WINGFOOT MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT. IF DOOM INDEED KNOWS HOW TO *REJUVENATE* THE SILVER SURFER, THEN HE HOLDS THE KEY TO *DEFEATING* THE SUPER SKRULL.

BUT, T'CHALLA, THE SKRULL SAID THIS *"SURFER"* IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME *HARBINGER* OF *DEATH!*

SO HE CLAIMED, SUE BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE JUST *WHAT* THE TRUTH IS IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION.

AND IN ORDER TO *LEARN* THAT TRUTH, WE MAY *NEED* TO REVIVE THE SILVER SURFER.

THEN YOU WILL REQUIRE *MY* HELP, RICHARDS..

...BECAUSE I AM THE *ONLY* ONE WHO KNOWS THE REVERSION SOURCE CODE

AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, RICHARDS -- IF WE *ARE* TO SUCCEED, YOU MUST ALL DO *EXACTLY* AS I SAY.

BAH! THIS ONE WAS NO MATCH FOR MY POWERS! WHO IS LEFT TO CHALLENGE ME?

COME! I WILL SLAY YOU ALL!

IN FACT, I SHALL MAKE THIS PUP MY FIRST TROPHY KILL!

NOT SO LONG AS THE *BLACK PANTHER* LIVES, FOUL CREATURE!

KNOW THAT THE HUMAN SPIRIT WILL *NEVER* SURRENDER TO YOUR WILL!

KARACK

HUNGH

I DON'T WANT YOUR SURRENDER...

...I WANT YOUR [illegible]

IT WILL TAKE FAR *MORE* THAN JUST YOUR HAUGHTY *WORDS!*

SHRAKK!

SO BE IT!

LET MY *ACTIONS* SPEAK FOR ME!

THAT'S *IT!* NOW, SUE!

*GOOD* WORK, T'CHALLA! I'LL TAKE IT FROM *HERE!*

MUST -- CHANNEL -- THE BLAST -- TO -- SURFER!

SKOOOOM

YOU DID IT, SUSAN! NOW STAND CLEAR!

"IT IS UP TO REED AND DOOM TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS!"

FASHOOM

TOO MUCH -- FEEDBACK!

EEEEYAAH!

SUE!

FORGET HER, RICHARDS! KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND!

THIS IS NO TIME TO PLAY THE LOVE-SICK FOOL! NOT WHEN ALL OUR LIVES ARE IN JEOPARDY!

SHUT UP, VICTOR! I KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE!

ACCORDING TO MY READINGS, THE TRANSFERENCE IS COMPLETE!

NOW WE HAVE TO HOPE THAT THE FLUX INHIBITOR WAS ABLE TO STABILIZE THE DISTILLATION PROCESS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE ENERGY LEVELS!

I...I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING THROUGH THE PLASMA VAPOR. WHAT'S HAPPENED?

IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS --

"— WE HAVE SUCCEEDED!"

GREETINGS, EARTHLINGS. I AM THE SILVER SURFER.

HERALD OF GALACTUS.

SURFER!

HEAR ME, DEATHBRINGER! I, KL'RT, WARRIOR OF THE GALACTIC SKRULL EMPIRE, CHALLENGE YOU TO MORTAL COMBAT! YOU AND YOUR MASTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SKRULL THRONEWORLD!

BUT TODAY, WE, THE SURVIVING BRETHREN OF SKRULL, WILL EXACT OUR REVENGE!

DESPITE THE HUMANS' EFFORTS, I STILL RETAIN PART OF THE POWER COSMIC WITHIN ME —

— AND I SHALL USE THAT REMAINING ENERGY TO DESTROY YOU!

WHAT YOU POSSESS, SKRULL, IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PALE REFLECTION OF MY LIFE-FORCE. MUCH AS I AM BUT A MERE SHADOW OF THE POWER INCARNATE THAT IS GALACTUS!

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO DEFEAT ME.

LIES! I KNOW YOUR DEEPEST SECRET, HERALD! YOU ARE NORRIN RADD! I KNOW YOU CAN BE DESTROYED!

THE ONE YOU SPEAK OF EXISTS NO MORE.

IN HIS STEAD, THERE IS ONLY THE SILVER SURFER.

THEN I'LL DESTROY THE BOTH OF YOU!

REED! WHAT'S GOING ON? THE PLACE IS LIT UP LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!

THE ENERGY FALLOUT FROM THEIR BATTLE IS TEARING APART THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE CASTLE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

INDEED! THE DANGER HERE IS FAR GREATER THAN YOU IMAGINE, RICHARDS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOOM?

MY SENSORS TELL ME THAT THE MASSIVE ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS HAVE RUPTURED THE CONTAINMENT WALLS OF THE FUSION REACTOR LOCATED UNDERNEATH THE CASTLE.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE CORE IS ABOUT TO BREACH.

GOOD LORD, VICTOR! WHAT CAN WE DO?

WEP! THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE LEFT TO YOUR OWN DEVICES, RICHARDS.

I MUST DO WHAT I CAN TO SALVAGE THE REACTOR CORE. BUT SHOULD A SINGLE INNOCENT LATVERIAN DIE TODAY...

"...I WILL HOLD YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE!"

C'MON, STRETCH! FORGET ABOUT HIM! WE GOTTA GET OURSELVES OUTTA THIS MESS!

HANG ON, EVERYONE!

THE CASTLE'S COLLAPSING ALL AROUND US!

"BUT ONCE WE'RE CLEAR, IT WILL BE A FOOT RACE TO THE SHIP!"

KRAKABOOM

OH, NO! WE'RE TOO *LATE!*

THE CASTLE'S BEING RIPPED APART BY AN *EXPLOSION!*

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

HOW COME WE AIN'T *VAPORIZED* YET?

REED, DO YOU THINK DOOM *SHUT DOWN* THE REACTOR?

THOUGH IT'S *POSSIBLE*, I DOUBT THAT EVEN VICTOR COULD HAVE DONE IT SO *QUICKLY*. I THINK THERE MAY BE MORE *POWERFUL* FORCES AT WORK HERE.

ALL I KNOW IS NOW AIN'T THE TIME TO *DEBATE* THE ISSUE!

I'M PICKIN' UP A *MESS* O' SAT-COM ACTIVITY, AND FROM THE SOUND OF IT, I'D SAY THE ENTIRE *LATVERIAN AIR FORCE* IS ON ITS WAY HERE!

SO LET'S LOAD UP THIS WAGON AND HIT THE ROAD!

BESIDES, I'M RUNNIN' A LITTLE LATE FOR A *DATE!*

FWWWSSHH

*ATOP THE CASTLE RUINS, A LONE FIGURE WATCHES AS THE SHIP DEPARTS.*

WHOOOM

*JUST MOMENTS EARLIER, THE SILVERY HUMANOID SEALED THE BREACHED CONTAINMENT WALLS OF THE FUSION REACTOR, AVERTING A CATASTROPHIC EXPLOSION.*

*IT ONLY SEEMED FAIR. AFTER ALL, THE HUMANS DID SAVE HIS LIFE.*

*OF ALL THE BEINGS HE HAS ENCOUNTERED IN HIS TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY, THEY WERE THE FIRST TO SHOW HIM... COMPASSION.*

*IT IS AN OBSERVATION THAT GIVES THE SILVER SURFER PAUSE.*

# INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

PROLOGUE 4

HEROES REBORN

SOON...

...MILES FROM THE RUINED SITE OF CASTLE DOOM, IN A CONSIDERABLY SMALLER SECONDARY FACILITY...

WHILE LESSER MEN MAY CONSIDER THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SOMETHING OF A DISASTER --

-- VICTOR VON DOOM IS NOT A LESSER MAN.

IN THE EVER-BURNING BLACKNESS THAT IS HIS HEART, HE KNOWS...

...VICTORY IS ALWAYS A WHISPER AWAY.

M-MY LORD?

YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS BEFORE YOU SELF-DESTRUCT:

SCOTT LOBDELL
Story

BRETT BOOTH
Pencils

TOM McWEENEY
Inks

PUNISHMENT FOR HAVING INTERRUPTED ME.

B-BUT MY LIEGE...

..I BRING WORD OF...

FIFTY-FIVE SECONDS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM IN SOMETHING OF A FOUL MOOD OVER RECENT EVENTS.

FIFTY...

WE HAVE PICKED UP A B-BROADCAST FROM THE UNITED STATES --

-- AND THOUGHT YOU SHOULD S SEE IT.

BY THE EBON WINDS...

SUCH DESTRUCTION.

SUCH... POWER.

HOW?

IT IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF AVENGERS ISLAND IN MANHAT --

THAT WAS *NOT* THE QUESTION.

SORRY.

AS NEAR AS CAN BE DISCERNED, IT WAS OVERRUN BY UNIDENTIFIED *TERRORIST* FACTIONS.

THE *ENERGY* SPEWING FORTH FROM THE WRECKAGE IS --

GAMMA RADIATION.

ANY FOOL CAN SEE THAT

NOT QUITE. SEE AVENGERS #4 & #5 FOR MORE ACCURATE DETAILS. — Mike.

CEASE SELF-DESTRUCT PROGRAM.

A THOUSAND TH THANK YOUS, MY --

CEASE GROVEL PROGRAM.

YES, SIR.

MORE INTRIGUING THAN THE LOSS OF *LIVES* AS A RESULT OF THE TOTAL *MELTDOWN* OF THE GAMMA CORE --

-- IS HOW ANY *ONE* INDIVIDUAL, OTHER THAN *MYSELF*, WAS ABLE TO AMASS THE RESOURCES TO *ENGINEER* SUCH AN EVENT

WE BELIEVE IT WAS EITHER HYDRA OR --

WITHOUT *MY* BLESSINGS?

NONSENSE.

COMPUTER -- ENLARGE SECTOR LAMBDA/3.

WE HAVE *ALREADY* SCANNED FOR SURVIVORS.

THERE IS NOTHING --

-- ALIVE --

-- IN...

COMPUTER: ENLARGE AGAIN...

...AND DISPLAY.

DOOM IS NOT ACCUSTOMED TO SURPRISES.

"SURPRISES ARE THE DOMAIN OF THE UN-PREPARED", HE WAS FOND OF EXPLAINING TO HIS FRIENDS, A LONG TIME AGO...

...WHEN HE ONCE UPON A TIME ALLOWED HIMSELF THE BURDEN OF FRIENDSHIP.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

FOR WEEKS I HAVE CONCENTRATED MY EFFORTS ON SIPHONING THE COSMIC ENERGY WHICH RAGES THROUGH THE *SILVER SURFER*...

...WHILE THIS -- *CREATURE* -- OF RAW GAMMA RADIATION HAS WALKED THE EARTH?

AND YET, HOW CAN IT BE THAT SOMETHING AS *FRAGILE* AS A HUMAN VESSEL CAN CONTAIN SUCH *POWER?*

I FEEL COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THAT THERE IS NO WAY WE COULD HAVE SUSPECTED ALL THAT DAMAGE WAS DONE BY --

IN THE INSTANT BEFORE THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED COMPUTERS CAN CALCULATE THE INFORMATION --

-- DOCTOR DOOM'S MIND RACES AHEAD TO THE IMAGE WHICH WILL RESULT:

THAT IS, A HOLOGRAPH OF THE HUMAN BEING WHICH SERVED AS HOST FOR THE GAMMA RADIATION.

COMPUTER:

PROJECT A GAMMA DISSIPATION OF 97%...

... RATHER, 98.37%...

... WITH A BIO-GENETIC *PURGE* OF EXCESS *PHYSIOLOGY* RESULTING FROM DIRECT INFUSION OF PURE GAMMA RADIATION.

THOUGH HE IS LOATH TO ADMIT IT --

-- FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS EVENING --

-- VICTOR FINDS HIMSELF... UNPREPARED.

BRUCE?

CAN IT BE..?

MEMORIES.

BRUCE BANNER.

REBEL O'REILLY.

ANTHONY STARK.

TOGETHER WITH REED RICHARDS AND VICTOR VON DOOM —

-- IN THEIR YOUTHS, THEY FANCIED THEMSELVES ARCHITECTS OF THE FUTURE...

...ATOMIC KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE.

OR, AS BEN GRIMM WAS WONT TO REFER TO THEM —

THE LEGION O' EGGHEADS.

CAN'T YA JUST ALL *POSE* FOR HANK PYM'S KEEPSAKE ALBUM AND WE CAN ALL GET BACK TA THE REAL WORLD?

SO, IN ESSENCE, WHAT YOU'RE *SAYING*, BRUCE --

-- IS THAT YOU'RE DEDICATING YOUR *LIFE* TO THE CREATION OF A BOMB YOU CAN *NEVER* DARE USE FOR FEAR OF ITS *DESTRUCTIVE* POTENTIAL?

BUT IT DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE USED, VICTOR.

THE VERY *EXISTENCE* OF THE GAMMA BOMB WILL INSURE THAT IT WILL NEVER BE DEPLOYED.

CONGRATULATIONS, MY FRIEND:

YOU ARE AN *IDIOT*.

I SEE *NOTHING* IDIOTIC ABOUT TRYING TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM ITS OWN BASEST INSTINCTS.

NOT WHEN I BELIEVE THAT WITHIN EACH OF US --

-- EVEN *YOU*, VICTOR --

-- LIES THE CAPACITY TO WIELD SUCH UNBRIDLED POWER FOR THE *BENEFIT* OF ALL MANKIND.

IF YOU'RE ALL THROUGH PLOTTING YOUR INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION -- HOW ABOUT ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS?

SMILE.

ALWAYS.

FOOL.

NAY SAYER.

CHILDREN...

KLICK

HOW IRONIC.

IT WOULD SEEM BRUCE HAS BECOME *TRAPPED*, IN A FASHION --

-- A *VICTIM* OF HIS OWN AMBITION.

RATHER THAN *MASTER* THE TECHNOLOGY WE ALL ONCE WORSHIPPED, AS I HAVE DONE, HE HAS BECOME ITS *SLAVE*.

THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF MYSELF...

SIRE, IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?

WE WAIT.

IT IS *EVIDENT* THAT THE FORCES UNLEASHED THIS DAY WILL RESULT IN A *CONFRONTATION* BETWEEN ALL MY OLD *"FRIENDS"*... MY MOST BITTER ENEMIES.

SOON THEY WILL ALL FALL --

-- AND IT WILL BE VICTOR VON DOOM *ALONE* WHO WILL STAND TALL AMONGST THE WRECKAGE THEY HAVE MADE OF THEIR PETTY LIVES.

WAITING IT IS, SIRE.

*AND AS THE SELDOM HEARD SOUND OF LAUGHTER COURSES AGAINST THE STONE --*

*-- IT IS CLEAR THAT QUITE BY ACCIDENT, THE LONG-DEBATED INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION...*

*...HAS BEGUN.*

TO BE CONTINUED IN: AVENGERS #6

AND DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE'S TRIP INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE!